

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 HA-05 ACDA-12
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0039
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 9230

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, ID
SUBJECT: GENERAL MURDANI'S COMMENTS ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REF: JAKARTA 9114

1. GENERAL MURDANI TOLD ME JULY 10 THAT HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF HIS RECENT TRIP TO WASHINGTON. WHILE THERE WERE NO COMMITMENTS REGARDING ADDITIONAL FMS, HE WAS ENCOURAGED THAT JUDICIOUS USE OF THE \$40 MILLION WHICH HE EXPECTS WILL BE AVAILABLE ANNUALLY PLUS SOME POSSIBLE INCREASE IN THIS AMOUNT SEVERAL YEARS FROM NOW WILL ENABLE INDONESIA TO MEET ITS ESSENTIAL NEEDS. MURDANI SAID THAT IN ADDITIONAL TO BUYING F-5 AND A-4 AIRCRAFT, INDONESIA WILL DEFINITELY GO AHEAD WITH PROCUREMENT OF AN M-16 PLANT AND HOPES THE AGREEMENT CAN BE SIGNED BEFORE AUGUST 17. COLT HAS SURVEYED THE EXISTING PLANT AT BANDUNG AND IS DUE TO PRESENT A FIRM PROPOSAL TO THE GOI BY THE MIDDLE OF THIS MONTH. INDONESIA HOPES THAT THROUGH A COMBINATION OF FMS, COMMERCIAL FINANCING AND USE OF SOME OF ITS OWN FUNDS, CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSTRUCTION CAN BE STARTED QUICKLY. HE ADDED THAT SOME ELEMENTS WITHIN THE INDONESIAN MILITARY STILL PREFERRED THE GELGIAN RIFLE. DEFENSE MINISTER YUSUF, WITH SUHARTO'S FULL APPROVAL, OPTED FOR THE AMERICAN WEAPON.

2. ON OTHER ITEMS, MURDANI SAID THERE ARE STILL DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE INDONESIAN MILITARY ON THE

DESIRABILITY OF PROCURING THE M-113 PERSONNEL CARRIER. HE AND SOME OTHER OFFICERS FAVOR A WHEELED RATHER THAN A TRACKED VEHICLE. HE BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT DEFENSE MINISTER YUSUF LEANS TOWARD THE M-113 AND THAT THIS WILL PROBABLY BE THE FINAL DECISION. HE NOTED THAT THE SURVEILLANCE RADAR, FOR WHICH ITT IS A PRIME CONTENDER, WILL PROBABLY BE PROCURED FROM FRANCE UNDER A LINE OF CREDIT THE GOI HOPES TO GET AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT VISIT BY THE COMMANDER OF THE FRENCH ARMED FORCES, GENERAL GUY MERY. THIS CREDIT WILL ALSO BE USED TO PROCURE EIGHT TO TEN PUMA HELICOPTERS. PROBABLY AGAIN REFLECTING DIFFERENCES AMONG THE INDONESIAN MILITARY, MURDANI DENIED REPORTS (REFTEL) THAT INDONESIA WAS ALSO IN THE MARKET FOR A U.S. MANUFACTURED TRANSPORT HELICOPTER. HE FELT THAT THE PUMA WOULD MEET INDONESIA'S BASIC NEEDS.

3. COMMENTING GENERALLY, MURDANI SAID THAT DEFENSE MINISTER JUSUF IS EXTREMELY FRIENDLY TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. HE FAVORS AMERICAN EQUIPMENT WHEREVER POSSIBLE, AND GIVEN THE CLOSENESS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, FEELS IT IS BETTER FOR INDONESIA TO BE DEPENDENT ON THE U.S. FOR SPARE PARTS AND SUPPLIS THAN ON ANY OTHER OUTSIDE SOURCE. MURDANI ALSO SPOKE HIGHLY OF JUSUF'S COMMITMENT TO RAPID IMPROVEMENT IN THE EQUIPMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES AND TO MEASURES TO IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS AND MORALE FOR THE LOWER RANKS.

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MASTERS

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